

An Office

AND

Manual of Devotion

FOR

Confirmation Classes,

TOGETHER WITH

An Introduction,

BY

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INCUMBENT OF ST. ALBAN'S, OTTAWA.

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*All profits to be given to St. Alban's Church Building Fund.*

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## Introduction.

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It is certain that in the Primitive age the apostolic rite of CONFIRMATION, or LAYING ON OF HANDS, was administered, even in the case of infants, as soon as possible after baptism. In fact, it was then considered as the necessary consummation of the baptismal ceremony, and down to the 9th century this was the rule of the whole Christian Church, as it is still the rule of all the Oriental Churches. In the West, the practice is now universal of separating the two, the severance being so complete, that in the Roman communion Confirmation has been raised to the dignity of a distinct Sacrament. The Anglican Church returning, as she believes, to the *Apostolic* and *Scriptural* usage, makes it a rite complementary to Baptism, and introductory to the Holy Communion, the link between the *only two Sacraments ordained by Christ himself*, and the public acknowledgment on the part of the Church that the member initiated in Holy Baptism is now fully qualified to be admitted to the participation of all her privileges, and to the knowledge of the highest mysteries of the Christian religion. She therefore postpones its administration until her children are "able to render an

account of their faith," (P. Book, 1604,) or (more distinctly qualifying the period), until they "have come to years of discretion," and "are of a competent age."

Be she right or wrong, our Church has, for the past 300 years, considered the ordinance of Confirmation as the crowning of the religious instruction of her young men and maidens, her final blessing to them as they emerge from the state of tutelage, and are about to go forth into the world as men and women militant in the great battle of good and evil. At that most critical period of life she calls her children to her altars, and there having caused them to renew openly, before God and their Christian brethren, the solemn Vow and promises of their Baptism, she bestows, through her highest officers of Apostolic rank, her choicest benison, on each one separately invokes the manifold gifts of the Holy Ghost; and, believing that her petitions are answered, she sends them forth assured of the favor and gracious goodness of the Almighty and Ever-living God.

This is CONFIRMATION, as now observed in the Anglican Church, and, until some change be made, her priests are bound to obey her voice, and teach as she directs. Therefore, with them, preparation for Confirmation is the duty that perhaps, of all others, brings the weightiest responsibility. The pastor feels, that to him is then entrusted the launching of frail barks on the stormy waters of life, to sail forth to an immortal destiny of weal or woe, the haven of eternal rest in some degree to be attained by the manner in which each

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vessel is fitted out for the voyage. He is the Officer of a little band, whom he is putting in array for the first time against deadliest enemies. He is conscious that his soldiers are young and inexperienced, with the issue of the battle of life in a great measure depending upon the disposition he makes, the knowledge he imparts, the courage he inspires, and with the certainty that never again will there come the same opportunity for training and teaching. Therefore, he makes this a most solemn season to himself and his catechumens, a season of more earnest, more frequent prayer, and of retirement from the world, and he strains every faculty in drawing the youthful disciples of JESUS nearer to their Lord, in giving to their eyes of faith a clearer sight of the Captain of their salvation, in helping them to realize the happiness and peace that ever follow love and obedience to Him and His Church; and, finally, in preparing them for the coming joy unspeakable, the honor inestimable, of admission to His Sacramental Presence, and their reception worthily of His most blessed Body and Blood.

I have not presumed to lay down any invariable course of study, feeling that every clergyman with a cure of souls will be the best judge of the instruction suitable to his own circumstances. Sex, age, education, surrounding influences, social position, will necessarily vary the character of almost every catechumen's preparation. But feeling myself the want of some short Office for my classes, and the inefficacy of merely



naming collects, or even saying the best forms of prayer, if these be not before the eyes at the time, and also knowing the benefit of special devotions for special occasions, I have ventured to draw up the following, and offer it in all humility to my reverend brethren in the Diocese of Ontario. May the Lord perform all our petitions, and give His blessing to our work. May the Holy Spirit be with us at our Confirmation seasons, to take of the things of Christ and show them to us and our dear children in the Church, and thus ever lead us all on to the greater knowledge and obedience of His Word, so that in the end we may obtain life everlasting, and *there* meet together again, past all the changes and chances of this world, through the infinite Love and Merits and Mediation of our most blessed Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

T. B. J.

Ottawa, Conv. of St. Paul, 1867.

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## Office.

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*All standing in their appointed places, the Clergyman shall say :—*

In the name of the FATHER, and of the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST :—

*Each one of the Class audibly answering,*

AMEN.

*Then shall be said the Apostles' or Nicene Creed, at discretion.*

I BELIEVE, &c. Amen.

*Then all kneeling down reverently, the following prayers shall be said :—*

*Let us pray.*

Lord, have mercy upon us :

*Christ, have mercy upon us :*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR FATHER, &c. Amen.

O LORD, from Whom all good things do come ; Grant to us, Thy humble servants, that by Thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by Thy merciful guiding may perform the same ; through JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. Amen.

- ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts be open, &c.
- PREVENT US, O Lord, &c.
- O GOD, Who didst teach the hearts, &c.
- STIR UP, we beseech Thee, &c.

\* *May be used at discretion.*

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- V. Thou art my portion, O Lord :
- R. *I have promised to keep Thy law.*
- V. I am Thy servant, O grant me understanding :
- R. *That I may know Thy testimonies.*
- V. O look Thou upon me, and be merciful unto me :
- R. *As Thou usest to do unto those that love The name.*
- V. O help us against the enemy :
- R. *For vain is the help of man.*
- V. Through God we shall do great acts :
- R. *And it is He that shall tread down our enemies.*
- V. O God, make speed to save us :
- R. *O Lord, make haste to help us.*

(*All standing up*)

- V. Glory be to the Father, &c.
- R. *As it was, &c. Amen.*

#### HYMN.

Come, HOLY GHOST, Creator blest,  
*Vouchsafe within our souls to rest ;*  
 Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,  
*And fill the hearts which Thou hast made.*



Thy light to every sense impart,  
*And shed Thy love in every heart ;*  
 The weakness of our flesh supply  
*With strength and courage from on high.*

Drive far away our ghostly foe,  
*And peace for evermore bestow ;*  
 If Thou be our preventing guide,  
*No evil can our steps betide.*

Praise we the FATHER and the SON,  
*And HOLY SPIRIT—with Them ONE ;*  
 And may the SON on us bestow  
*The gifts that from the SPIRIT flow. Amen.*

*Here may be read one of the following passages of  
 Holy Scripture :*

Rom. vi., 3-13.

— viii., 9-17.

— xii., 1-5.

1 Cor., iii, 11-17.

— vi., 9-20.

Gal. v., 16-25.

Eph. ii., 11-22.

— iv., 1-6, 13-16.

— iv., 21-32.

— v., 1-11.

— vi., 10-19.

Phil. ii., 5-13.

— iii., 7-15.

Col. ii., 6-15.

— iii., 1-11.

1 Thes., iv., 1-8.

— v., 4-23.

Heb. xiii., 8-17.

1 Pet., i., 15-25.

— v., 5-11.

1 John, iv., 10-19.

*Then shall follow the INSTRUCTION of the Clergy-  
 man, and the Class shall be dismissed thus :*

LET US PRAY.

O GOD, forasmuch as without Thee we are not able  
 to please Thee ; Mercifully grant that Thy HOLY SPIRIT  
 may in all things direct and rule our hearts ; through  
 Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, our refuge and strength, Who art the Author of all Godliness ; Be ready, we beseech Thee, to hear the devout prayers of Thy children ; and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually ; through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

O HEAVENLY FATHER, the Author and Giver of all good things, Who alone canst give the increase to the planting and watering, we earnestly beseech Thee to send us Thy HOLY SPIRIT at this time to cleanse our hearts, to confirm our efforts, to add strength to our faith, and seriousness to our repentance ; so may we worthily receive the holy Rite of Confirmation and be brought nearer to Thee, loving Thee, our God, first and best of all in this life present, and in the life to come share the blessedness of those Thy servants who are faithful unto death ; through the Merits and Mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

V. O Lord, shew Thy mercy upon us :

R. *And grant us Thy salvation.*

V. Make me a clean heart, O God :

R. *And renew a right spirit within me.*

V. Cast me not away from Thy presence :

R. *And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.*

V. O give me the comfort of Thy help again :

R. *And stablish me with Thy free Spirit.*

V. Praise the Lord, O my soul :

R. *And all that is within me praise His holy name.*

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, &c. *Amen.*

## Private Devotions for Confirmation Candidates.

"O Lord, open Thou my lips."

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation  
of my heart be always acceptable in Thy sight ;"

"O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer."

### Prayer for the Morning.

*King Edward's Primer.*

O MERCIFUL LORD GOD, Heavenly Father, I render most high laud, praise, and thanks unto Thee, that Thou hast preserved me both this past night, and all the days of my life hitherto, under Thy protection ; and hast suffered me to live to this present hour. I beseech Thee heartily, Thou wilt vouchsafe to receive me this day, and the residue of my life henceforth, under Thy tuition ; that Thou wilt rule and govern me with Thy HOLY SPIRIT, so that all manner of darkness, unbelief, infidelity, and carnal lusts and affections, may be utterly driven out of my heart ; and that I may be justified and saved, both body and soul, through a right and perfect faith, and so walk in the light of Thy most godly truth, and to the profit and advancement of my neighbour : through JESUS CHRIST our LORD and SAVIOUR. *Amen.*

### Evening Prayer.

*Bp. J. Taylor.*

ETERNAL GOD, Almighty Father, by Whose care and providence I am preserved and blessed, comforted and assisted, I humbly beg of Thee to pardon the sins and follies of this day, the weakness of my services, the strength of my passions, the rashness of my words,

and all the evils of my actions. O let me never return to those follies of which I am ashamed, which bring sorrow and death, and Thy displeasure—worse than death. Give me a command over my evil inclinations, and a perfect hatred of sin, and a love to Thee above all the desires of this world. Be pleased to bless and preserve me this night from all sin and the malice of the spirits of darkness: watch over me in my sleep, and whether I sleep or wake, let me be Thy servant. Be Thou first and last in all my thoughts, and the Guide and continual assistance of all my actions. Preserve my body, pardon the sin of my soul, and sanctify my spirit. Let me always live holily, justly and soberly; and when I die receive my soul into Thy hands, O Holy and ever Blessed JESUS, that I may lie in Thy bosom, and long for Thy coming, and hear Thy blessed sentence at Doomsday, and behold Thy Face, and live in Thy kingdom, singing praises to God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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### For the Gifts of Grace.

*Bp. Cosin.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Fountain of all goodness, and the well-spring of Divine graces, Who hast vouchsafed to regenerate me, being born in sin, by water and the HOLY GHOST, in the blessed laver of baptism, thereby receiving me into the number of Thy children, and making me an heir of everlasting life in the communion of Thy glorious saints: Strengthen me, I beseech Thee, O Lord, with that blessed SPIRIT of Thine, the GHOSTLY COMFORTER, and daily increase in me Thy manifold gifts of Grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and Ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fulfil me, O Lord, with the spirit of Thy holy fear, even through Him who hath sent down the SPIRIT upon His Church, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. *Amen.*

## For Grace to fulfil Baptismal Promises.

*Hele.*

O MOST GRACIOUS GOD, Who workest in us both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure, vouchsafe, I beseech Thee (at this solemn season), such a measure of Thy grace as may enable me to fulfil all my holy resolutions and to walk worthy of that blessed state whereunto thou hast called me. *Amen.*

Grant that I, being regenerate and made Thy child by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, and may give all diligence to eschew those things that are contrary to my profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same. *Amen.*

Grant me perfectly to know Thy SON, JESUS CHRIST, to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life, that being established in the truth of Thy Holy Gospel I may give up myself obediently to follow Thy holy commandments and steadfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life. *Amen.*

Grant that I may lean only upon the hope of Thy heavenly grace; and being evermore defended by Thy mighty power may successfully withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure heart and mind may follow Thee, the only God. *Amen.*

Grant that I may both perceive and know what things I ought to do, and also may have grace and power so faithfully to fulfil the same, that by the innocency of my life, and constancy of my faith, I may glorify Thy Holy Name, and plentifully bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of Thee be plentifully rewarded. *Amen.*

Grant that I may diligently follow the example of my Saviour, Christ, and be made like unto Him; that as He died and rose again for me, so I may die unto sin and rise again unto righteousness, continually mortifying



all my evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living; that so as I have been made partaker of the Death of Thy Son, I may also be partaker of His Resurrection; and, finally, with the residue of Thy Saints, may be an inheritor of Thine everlasting Kingdom. All this I beg through the same, Thy SON JESUS CHRIST, Who with Thee and the HOLY GHOST, liveth and reigneth, ONE GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

Now the very God of peace sanctify me wholly; and I pray God, my whole spirit, and soul and body, be preserved blameless unto the coming of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

### Prayer to be said Daily while preparing for Confirmation.

*Nelson.*

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, by Whose gracious Providence I was born of Christian parents, and early dedicated to Thee in HOLY BAPTISM, wherein I was made a member of the Catholic Church whereof JESUS CHRIST is the Head, adopted Thy Child, and entitled to the unspeakable happiness of Thy glorious Kingdom; I most heartily thank Thee for calling me to this state of salvation, and for bestowing upon me such blessed privileges.

O dispose my mind by Thy heavenly grace, carefully and diligently to perform those conditions Thou requirest to qualify me for such inestimable benefits, and that I may continue in the same unto my life's end.

And now, O Lord, that I am preparing myself to receive a further degree of Thy grace and favour, which will advance me into the number of the faithful, by being permitted to approach Thy Holy Table, I humbly beseech Thee to enlighten my mind with the true knowledge and understanding of that solemn Vow which I made at my Baptism, and which I am now about to ratify and confirm publicly, in Thy presence:—

1. That I may constantly renounce the Devil, by avoiding all those temptations with which he seeks to destroy me, and by abstaining from all those sins which partake most of his diabolical nature.

2. That I may resist all covetous desires of honor, riches and pleasure, and all those evil customs and maxims of the world which alienate men's minds from the love of God; and that I may mortify all the inordinate appetites of my own corrupt nature.

3. That I may believe all Thy holy Revelations, and keep Thy blessed will and commandments all the days of my life. *Amen.*

Give me, O Lord, unfeigned repentance for all my past errors; that the many sins that I have committed may not deprive me of the assistance of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, which I am about to receive: but let my hearty sorrow, through the merits of CHRIST, wash away all that is past; and let power and strength, communicated to me from above, mortify and subdue them for the time to come. *Amen.*

I am unable, O Lord, of myself to help myself; mercifully grant that THY BLESSED SPIRIT may in all these things rule my heart; that by His holy Inspiration I may always think those things that are good, and by His gracious guiding may perform the same; through JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. *Amen.*

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## Prayer to be frequently used after Confirmation.

*Bp. Hobart.*

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, I bless and praise Thy Holy Name, that Thou hast vouchsafed to call me to a knowledge of Thy grace and faith in Thee, and hast certified to me, by the Laying on of hands, the remission of my sins, Thy favor and goodness, and the inheritance of everlasting life. Grant, I beseech Thee,

that I may continue in this state of salvation, in the holy fellowship of Thy Church—the mystical body of Thy Son; and, by Thy Grace, may do all such good works as Thou hast prepared for me to walk in. But, O Gracious God, Who knowest the frailties of my nature, and that I am set in the midst of many and great dangers, grant me Thy strength and Thy protection, support me in all dangers and carry me through all temptations;—may I never cast away my confidence in Thee, nor place it anywhere but in Thee. Keep me, I beseech Thee, from all things hurtful to my salvation, and lead me to all things profitable to it. May I remember always that I am bound by the most solemn obligations to follow the example of my Saviour Christ, to die unto sin and to rise again unto righteousness. Mortify and destroy all vices in me, and strengthen me by Thy grace, that by the innocence of my life and constancy of my faith, even unto death, I may glorify Thy Holy Name. Beholding constantly, by faith, the glory that shall be revealed, the good things which Thou hast prepared for those that love Thee, may I forsake all worldly and carnal affections, all covetous wishes and inordinate love of this world, and seek, supremely, those heavenly treasures—those true joys which are at Thy right hand, and which exceed all that I can desire. Grant this, I beseech Thee, O MERCIFUL FATHER, through JESUS CHRIST, my LORD and REDEEMER. *Amen.*

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## Hymn

*To be learned and said before coming to the Holy Communion.*

## I.

Just as I am—without one plea,  
But that Thy Blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee—  
O, LAMB OF GOD, I come.

## II.

Just as I am—and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose Blood can cleanse each spot—  
O, LAMB OF GOD, I come.

## III.

Just as I am—though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
With fears within and foes without—  
O, LAMB OF GOD, I come.

## IV.

Just as I am—poor, wretched, blind—  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find—  
O, LAMB OF GOD, I come.

## V.

Just as I am—Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe—  
O, LAMB OF GOD, I come.

## VI.

Just as I am—Thy love unknown,  
Has broken every barrier down ;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone—  
O, LAMB OF GOD, I come.

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## Rules for a Holy Life.

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I. Begin and close every day with private devotion.  
Dan. vi., 10.

II. Read, daily, some portion of God's Holy Word.  
St. John v., 39.

III. Attend regularly and reverently the services of the Church ; and especially the Holy Communion.  
Heb. x. 25. Ps. cxi. 9. St. Luke xxii. 19.

IV. Keep strict watch over yourself, especially your tongue. St. Matt. xxvi. 41. St. James iii.

V. Be careful of your example, especially before the young. Eph. iv. 29, 30.

VI. Avoid all companionship with the ungodly.  
1 Cor. xv. 33.

VII. Trust God in everything. Job xiii. 15.

VIII. When you have done all, feel you are an unprofitable servant. St. Luke xvii. 10.

THE END.



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